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NEWS ITEMS, NOTICES AND REPORTS MUST BE SENT TO THE OFFICE NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY EVENING OF EACH WEEK, IF THEY ARE TO APPEAR IN THE CURRENT NUMBER.

TRANSMIT NOTICES, FIFTY CENTS FOR EIGHT LINES, EACH INSERTION. FOR LARGER SPACE AND PERMANENT RATES, APPLY AS ABOVE.

Business Methods.

Of the work of the present Township Committee we have already spoken in detail and with commendation. It has met the best expectations of our citizens. Necessary improvements in the road, sidewalk, water, fire, and gas service have been provided. The finances of the township have been maintained in good order, and its system of public works continued against the efforts of a small portion of our citizens to break them down by legal decisions.

For the present quiet reigns. There is no pressing desire for improvement or change. The general public is well satisfied with the condition of affairs.

Such a time is well-suited to the consideration of administrative methods. One of these, lying well within the control of the Township Committee, should receive the early attention of its newly-elected members. We refer to its loose disbursement of moneys to Committees on Township Orders. It has long been customary to draw orders to the Chairman of the road, crosswalk, sidewalk, and park Committees, to be disbursed by them at will, without other than a general report of balances. Such a system may have been useful in the early days of the Township, when disbursements were small, and money scarce; but is entirely behind the times in these days of great corporations, when all bills must be sent to headquarters, and payment made only on checks. Nor is there any hardship to workmen involved in this. Meetings are held by the Committee fortnightly, when bills can be rendered and payment for work and materials made. No laborers in factories, and few mechanics are paid more frequently, or with greater regularity than payment can at present be made under the direct control of the Township Committee.

The system thus outlined of the presentation of bills directly to the Township Committee, and the drawing of individual orders—has much to commend it.

It relieves the Chairmen of Committees of suspicion. When the Township Committee audits a bill, it becomes responsible for its character and amount. There is no chance for loss, except in the presentation of false bills, which can be promptly traced. It does away with the system of pocket memoranda, of which no one can give an intelligible account, within a few weeks or months. It will enable the whole Committee to know the condition of each account, where the money has been spent, and how much, and to keep up a systematic control of its business.

The old system has nothing to command it, except the convenience with which it can be used for personal profit. It is much to the credit of the character maintained by our Township Officers that no suspicion has ever attached to their actions. We believe that all the Township money has been well and honestly spent during the past year, as always before; yet the conviction remains that our present methods are unbusinesslike, and should be changed. Neighboring Townships, following the safe rule, audit all bills; and it would be well if this plan were adopted here. It is wise to lock the door before the horse is stolen.

Township Affairs.

The Township Committee has called a meeting of the taxpayers to be held at Dodd's Hall on Monday evening next. The Annual Report of the Committee will then be presented, showing the receipts and disbursements for the past year.

The financial condition of the township was never better than at the present time. The sums of money voted by the people have been carefully and intelligently expended for the purposes for which they were raised, and the public has received full value for its payments.

No new debts have been contracted and the money received from tax arrears compares favorably with previous years.

The roads and sidewalks are better

than ever before and the gas lamps have been extended in several streets.

The Fire Department is well equipped, but the organization of a new company in the north end of the township will require a small increase in appropriations for that purpose.

The committee has recommended a small increase in the appropriation for roads and sidewalks, because it is evident that the money spent in that way contributes largely to the prosperity and advantage of the township, and also of the people individually. A careful examination of township affairs for the past year shows that in Bloomfield we have had honesty and efficiency in the management of our public business.

Local Option Bill.

The Nichols Local Option bill passed the Senate on February 9th, and is now in the House. This bill provides for holding a special election in any of the counties of this State, upon the application of one tenth of the number of voters who voted at the last election for members of the Legislature.

If, at such special election, a majority of all the votes cast shall be "against the sale of intoxicating liquors, it shall be unlawful, after sixty days from said election, for any person within the limits of such county to sell or expose for sale, or barter for valuable consideration, either directly or indirectly, or give away to induce trade at his place of business, or furnish at other public places any alcoholic, vinous, spirituous, malt or intoxicating liquors, or any compound of which intoxicating liquors form an ingredient." The bill excepts sales of liquor by drug gists for medicinal purposes upon a prescription by a reputable physician, and also excepts sales at wholesale by manufacturers to parties residing out of this State.

As a method of Local Option this bill is a fair one, and if it becomes a law, there are some counties in this State where its provisions would be adopted.

It may well be doubted whether the county of Essex could be induced to vote against the sale of liquor, for we have a large population which honestly thinks that drinking beer can do no one any harm, but aside from the question of how Essex might vote, such a bill ought to pass, and it ought to receive the vote of the Essex members of the Legislature. It is another step towards government by the majority, and every fair minded legislator ought to be willing to have such a question submitted to his constituents.

We earnestly hope that Mr. Underhill will be found in favor of this bill, and that he will use his best efforts to make it a law.

The people vote in the selection of their officers, and upon questions of appropriations and of issuing bonds: upon many important local measures, and they are at least entitled to an opportunity to vote on the subject of Local Option.

The Legislature.

From our Special Correspondent at Trenton.]

The all-absorbing topic for discussion in and about the State House this week has been that of Railroad Taxation, the law of 1884 having been declared by the Supreme Court of this State on Thursday of last week, to be unconstitutional and void, on the basis that it was a special tax upon the property of one class of corporations to raise the greater portion of the revenue of the State, thus contravening the intent of the Constitution, that "property shall be assessed for taxes under general laws and by uniform rules."

If it were possible to assess the property of such corporations for a larger part of such taxes as their equal share, it would be equally possible to select any one corporation and assess upon it the entire amount.

Such a power the court says would be despotic.

The court upholds the tax upon their franchise, but sets aside the State tax upon their real and personal estate.

Their franchise is taxable by the State because it is a valuable privilege granted by the State.

The court suggests that a tax upon the number of their cars used in the State, a sort of license tax, might be assessed by the State.

Immediate legislation is needed in order to supply the revenue required for State uses. Until this is accomplished, the railroads will be called upon to pay taxes under the law existing prior to 1884.

A resolution was offered on Thursday last in the Assembly for the appointment of a Joint Committee of three Senators and five Assemblymen to consider the tax question and draft appropriate legislation.

Senators Gardner, Large and Brinkerhoff, and Assemblymen Corbin, Parker, Gangewer, Besson and Pintard were appointed as the Committee, all but one of whom are lawyers, and all of them are men of ability and are capable of doing vigorous work.

On Monday evening Assemblymen Corbin introduced a bill providing for the immediate argument and decision of the case before the Court of Errors and Appeals.

The bill passed both Houses and became a law within two hours after it was

introduced in the Assembly.

Such speed as this would be ill-advised, were it not that the emergency requires prompt action.

On Tuesday the Governor sent a special message to the Legislature, recommending local taxation of the property of railroads and a State license or tax for every car used by them in this State. He also advises that the State officers be authorized to dispose of any securities belonging to the State, and, if necessary, to use the money for necessary State expenses.

On Tuesday morning the Jersey City Bridge and Tunnel bills were discussed in the Assembly.

The bridge bill was amended so that the cost of the entire improvement shall be paid by general taxation within Jersey City.

Several amendments were also made to the tunnel bill.

The people of Jersey City are left to decide whether they wish a bridge or a tunnel.

On Tuesday morning Mr. Underhill made a humorous speech, ridiculing a bill relating to bee-hives.

A meeting of the Joint Committee on railroad taxation was held on Tuesday evening. The Committee agreed that it was useless to draft a new tax law until after a decision on the case is given by the Court of Errors and Appeals; and plans were considered for temporary relief. It was decided to consult the Attorney General before proceeding further.

Both Houses worked hard at routine business Wednesday, in order to get through in time to go to Washington to visit Congress.

The members will be entertained by Congressmen Green and Phelps, and by Senator McPherson.

About thirty Assemblymen and two Senators (Fish and Livingston) and some others who are not members, will make up the party.

Senate 28, the County Local Option bill, now on its second reading in the House.

Assembly 185, Mr. Corbin's High License bill, came up on second reading in the House Monday and was laid over to Tuesday, when it was again considered and provoked much discussion. It was amended and again laid over for future consideration.

Police Protection.

To The Citizen:

Now that the time has arrived for considering what appropriations shall be needed for the ensuing official year for the township, it seems a proper time to suggest that we need some police protection for our township. Frequently during the past year we have been annoyed by burglaries, and in some instances these cases have been aggravated ones. Only a few weeks ago one of our business men was robbed of everything he possessed and was only able to resume business when financial aid was rendered him. Less than a month since two of our houses of worship have been ransacked and one week ago the Methodist parsonage and two business places were made to suffer from these degradations. The question has often been asked, will one or two police officers render any benefit or protection from these sneaks. In reply I would say that the presence of one or two officers in the town would be a great impetus to lessening these evils, and if they did occur we would then have some one who could be employed to ferret out the real perpetrators. Two officers could well serve the interest of the town for the present by serving from noon to daybreak the following day, making a beat of about 9 hours each. Trustworthy men could be employed for about \$45 per month and these with two officers could be maintained with all necessary additional expense for the service on an appropriation of \$1,200. A law passed last winter gives us the privilege of employing police provided the money necessary for that purpose is appropriated at the annual meeting, and as this meeting falls on next Monday night it is hoped that the leaders of the parties will interest themselves in a matter which will render us such important service and recommend an appropriation sufficient to cover this service.

C. K.

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UNPRECEDENTED!

Our Christmas trade has been the largest and most satisfactory we have ever known.

WHAT DID IT?

Why those magnificent two-pound caddies, which we sold for \$1, and with which we gave a beautiful Tea Set. It was a grand treat to the people, no doubt, and they were not slow in showing their appreciation of it. We have but very few left; consequently those of our customers who have not yet been supplied must attend to the matter at once, or they will be out in the cold.

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